

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03110 121745Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 CTME-00 TRSE-00
HA-05 ACDA-12 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 L-03 DODE-00
MCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /085 W
-----110263 131158Z /46

R 121020Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 685
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3110

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MILI/ SN, CI
SUBJECT: IMPOUNDMENT BY U.S. CUSTOMS OF SINGAPORE SHIPMENT TO
CHILE

REF: (A) SINGAPORE 2886, (B) SINGAPORE 2811

1. REF B OUTLINES SITUATION RESULTING FROM IMPOUNDMENT BY
U.S. CUSTOMS IN LOS ANGELES OF AIR FREIGHT SHIPMENT OF 60MM
MORTARS FROM SINGAPORE TO CHILE. REF A REPORTS THAT I RAISED
MATTER BRIEFLY IN COURSE JUNE 26 CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN
MINISTRY POLITICAL DIVISION DIRECTOR TAN BOON SENG, FEELING
THAT ISSUE WOULD INEVITABLY COME TO ATTENTION OF FOREIGN
MINISTRY AND I WANTED TAN TO HAVE ACTUAL FACTS.

2. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETER, CLASSIFIED CONFI-
DENTIAL, FROM TAN BOON SENG:

QUOTE: SHIPMENT OF MORTARS FOR CHILE

I REFER TO OUR CONVERSATION IN MY OFFICE ON 26 JUNE 78
REGARDING THE ABOVE MATTER.

WE ARE HAPPY TO NOTE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED
TO AUTHORISE THE RETURN OF THE SAID EQUIPMENT TO SINGAPORE.
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THE UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT HAS ARISEN BECAUSE THE FREIGHT FORWARDER
WAS UNAWARE IT WAS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN U.S. PERMISSION FOR SUCH
TRANSHIPMENT TO BE MADE THROUGH LOS ANGELES.

HOWEVER, THE EQUIPMENT IS NOT FROM OUR SURPLUS STOCKS AS THE
STATE DEPARTMENT SUPPOSED IT TO BE, BUT PRODUCED BY THE ORDNANCE
DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE IN SINGAPORE. MINDEF WILL BE HAPPY TO ARRANGE

FOR A SENIOR MEMBER OF YOUR EMBASSY TO VISIT THE PLANT AT ANY TIME.

GRUNFELD MENDEL OF WORLD TRADE CENTRE, ACTING FOR HERMAN LUDWIG OF SINGAPORE AND JAL, HAS ASKED FOR PETITION FOR RELIEF SO THAT THE EQUIPMENT CAN BE SHIPPED BACK TO SINGAPORE AT AN EARLY DATE.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER. UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT: TAN'S BLITHE STATEMENT THAT HE WAS "HAPPY TO NOTE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE THE RETURN OF THE SAID EQUIPMENT TO SINGAPORE" IS SOMETHING OF AN ENLARGEMENT (BY NO MEANS INADVERTENT) OF MY RATHER MODEST COMMENT THAT SHIPMENT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE TO BE RETURNED TO SINGAPORE IF IT COULD BE ARRANGED. MORE INTERESTING, HOWEVER, IS TAN'S EXPLANATION THAT MORTARS IN QUESTION ARE NOT OF THIRD-COUNTRY MANUFACTURE AS WE HAD UNDERSTOOD, BUT WERE PRODUCED BY SINGAPORE ITSELF. DAO HAS HITHERTO BEEN UNAWARE THAT SINGAPORE HAS BEGUN MANUFACTURING MORTARS. DAO PERSONNEL INTEND TO FOLLOW UP OFFER IN TAN'S LETTER TO VISIT MANUFACTURING PLANT.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ON PRESENT STATUS OF THIS CASE.
INGRAHAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SINGAP03110
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780287-0081
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780768/aaaacfoh.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 60dd7e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SINGAPORE 2886, 78 SINGAPORE 2811
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2033559
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMPOUNDMENT BY U.S. CUSTOMS OF SINGAPORE SHIPMENT TO CHILE
TAGS: MILI, SN, CI, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/60dd7e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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